Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

12 March 2007

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: March 8, 2007

Conditions Report

A harmful algal bloom has been identified in patches in southern Lee County and the Lower Florida Keys in Monroe County. In east-facing coastal areas of southern Lee County, patchy moderate impacts are possible today through Wednesday. In west-facing coastal areas of southern Lee County, patchy very low impacts are possible today and patchy moderate impacts are possible tomorrow and Wednesday. In the Lower Florida Keys, patchy very low impacts are possible today through Wednesday.

Analysis

The harmful algal bloom persists in patches in southern Lee County and southwest of the Lower Florida Keys. Satellite imagery (3/11) is obscured alongshore from Sarasota to Collier County; however a portion is visible south of Sanibel Island in Lee County. Elevated chlorophyll levels (>10 μg/L) are present in this region centered about 26°26.3'N 81°58'W. Comparisons with previous imagery indicate that the high chlorophyll region has moved slightly eastward (˜8 km). A report of respiratory irritation in Sanibel Island has been received. Continued sampling is recommended. Forecasted winds are not favorable for alongshore movement of the bloom.

The harmful algal bloom persists in the Lower Florida Keys in Monroe County. Satellite imagery is obscured by clouds in this region. Continued sampling in the western end of the Lower Keys is recommended. Continued westward transport of the bloom is possible through Thursday as persistent easterly and northeasterly winds have been forecasted.

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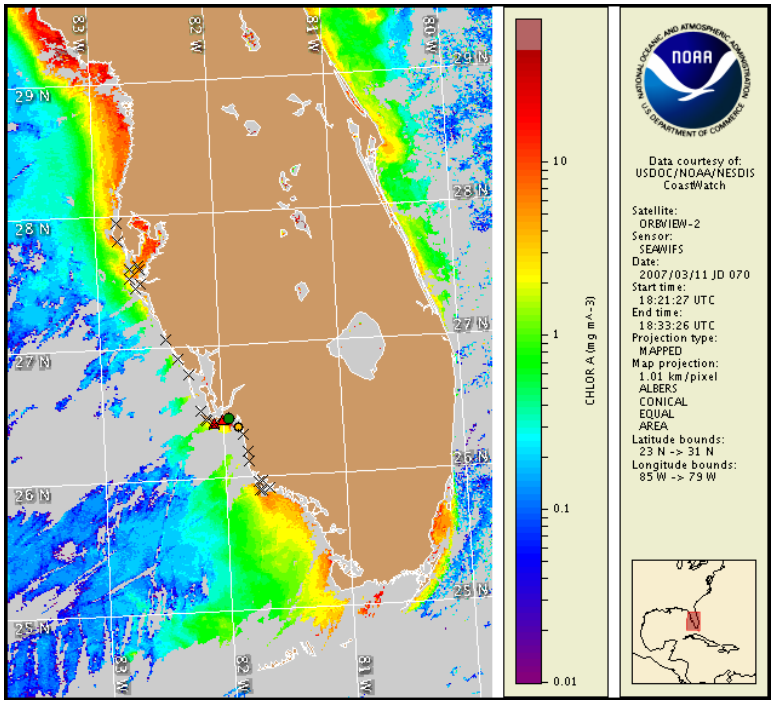
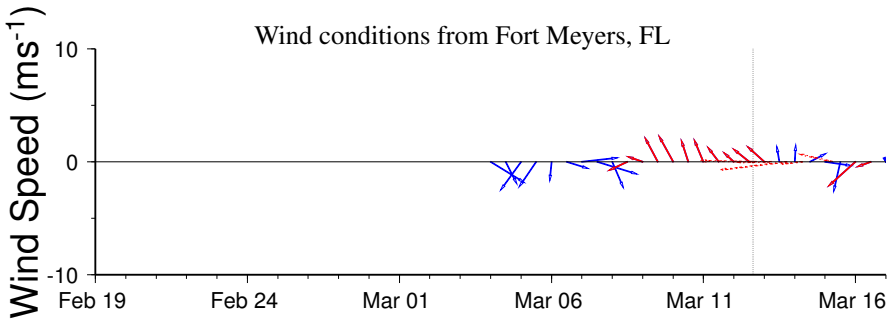


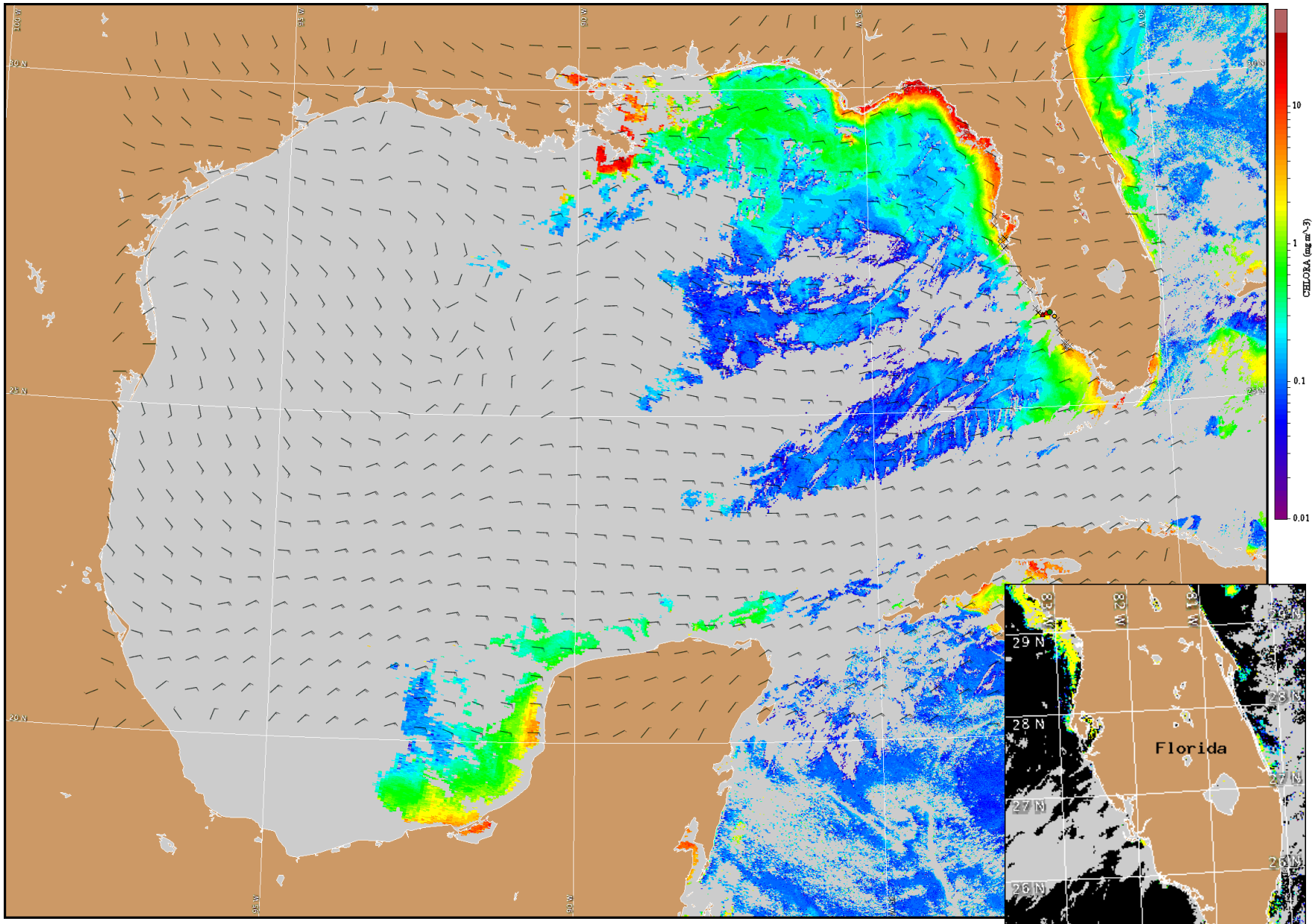
Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s).Cell concentration sampling data from March 2- 8 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa/gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW Florida: Easterly to northeasterly winds today at 5-10 knots (3-5 m/s). Onshore winds Tuesday and Wednesday at 5-10 knots (3-5 m/s).

Lower Keys: Northeasterly to easterly winds today at 15-20 knots (8-10 m/s). Easterly winds tonight through Wednesday at 15-20 knots (8-10 m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for March 13, 2007 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from March 2- 8 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present). For a list of cell count data providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the the HABFS bulletin guide: http://www.csc.noaa/gov/crs/habf/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Verified HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

Wind conditions from Sand Key, FL